EDITORIAL SECTION

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ACTIONS OF LAST PARISIAN MOB

Rather Ludicrous Play on a Political Sunday.

EXCHANGE OF SHOUTS

Police of the Capital Try Some New Methods.

Paris, August 16.—It is two o'clock in the afternoon of a midsummer Sunday in the Place de la Concorde. The Champs Elysees are beginning to fill with the families that take their Sunday outing under the trees. A squad of mounted Republican Guards are beside their horses in the shade at one corner of the great Place, and companies of police on foot sit waiting for what is to turn up.

Twenty young men, hot and dusty, advance in irregular line from the side of the Tuileries. Their dress shows the workman who has not taken care to put on his best clothes. The ages vary from sixteen to twenty-five. All wear at their buttonhole a red eglantine—the emblem of the Socialist clubs. The police stand up cheerily, while the young men parade the Place shouting "Vive Combes!—A bas la Calotte." M. Combes is the Prime Minister, and the Calotte, which literally is a skull-cap, means the clergy collectively and individually. The parade continues with the added cry, "Where are your duchesses?"

Other bands of like character, poorly dressed, young, clearly not of this quarter but coming by word of order from Belleville or Menilmontant of the workingmen, appear with like cries, and prepared for work. All wear the eglantine and defend the republic by acclaiming the Prime Minister and flouting the clergy. All are looking for the duchesses.

An old priest passes the bridge and absent-mindedly crosses the Place. A band of the Eglantines rushes farword crying till out of breath, "A bas la Carlotte!" They clamor for the priest to be thrown into the great basin of the fountain, by way of bath and first victory of the republic. Police rush forward and convoy the terror-stricken old man to a side street at the other side.

The Place and surrounding streets gradually become crowded; the Guards mount their horses, and the policeman patrol different points, keeping the bands moving. Here and there young men in their Sunday best shout back at the Socialists, "Vive la Liberte." The Eglantines answer with free obscenities denoting their opinion of the mental and bodily qualities of the pupils of Christian schools.

The opposing groups engage in the impossible task of shouting each other down, until swept away by a rush of the police.

The meeting of "Christian mothers" to protest against the closing of Sisters' schools by government, has been called for four o'clock. No organized group has yet appeared, in spite of the young Socialists' cry for duchesses. Here and there among the promenaders a woman of ample presence periodically interrupts her talk with her husband and children to call out explosively: "Vive la liberte!" and goes on with her walk and talk, having done the whole duty of woman.

Members of the aristocratic club of the Epatants sit along their terrace garden ten feet above the street, bordering the Place. They watch curiously through opera-glasses the movements of the crowd. It is their first opportunity since the Dreyfus demonstrations four years ago. They remark that the police tactics have changed. Then the lines of mounted guards, with superb horses, trained to back and push sideways against crowds, quartered up the great Place, sweeping the crowds beyond possibility of contact in different directions. Now the police remain observant, but allow the demonstration to go on. So far it is exclusively Socialist—delegations from the clubs of young workingmen. The only variation is a band of a half-a-dozen elderly men, with a lok of notaries or lawyers, who advance in their quality of Freemasons to give counterpoise against the Christian mothers, who have not yet appeared.

A clubman picks a pebble from the safe ground of his terrace and tosses it over on a band of Englantines that passes. There is a great commotion; the mental and bodily qualities of the clubmen are retailed from below, and the few pebbles of bits of Sunday lunches found on the smoothly street, are tossed back at the gentlemen occupying the terrace. They precipitatedly retire while the police clear the street below. Across the Place the well-dressed people who are seated comfortably on the similar terrace of the Tuileries Garden call with animation to the Englantines parading below. Suddenly, one man, losing patience, or in sheer foolishness, throws over a chair at the workingmen below. A band of Englantines breaks for the side gate of the garden further along the street, and the well-dressed people above scatter in a panic at their coming. The police are too quick, and the terrace is evacuated.

A British reporter walks curiously among the Sunday promenaders, who, alone, so far, make any answer to the triumphant boys of Belleville. After much anxious searching of buttonholes, he notes for a London paper that the opposing flowers are the red eglantine and the Catholic pink. In reality, the white pink is the flower of the Orleanists, and does not appear. But the tricolor daisy, which has been given as the emblem of what was to be a demonstration of Christian mothers, is equally conspicuous by its absence.

Little by little, it dawns on the consciousness of the Englantines that the women's demonstrations has begun further up the Champs Elysees. It is too late. The police, on horseback and on foot, are massed along that side of the place, and it is difficult for the opposing crowds to come together. "It is the Belgian method," explains one of the police officers; "instead of evacuating entire parts of the open space in turns, to keep the multitude circulating, we keep much of the groups and run our horses into them, two by two, just enough to break up the dangerous collision." It is a method that works, although this practical separation of the counter-demonstrations is the result of accident and not of police artfulness.

The women have been asked by their leaders to come down from the side of the Arc de Triomphe. It is their aim to reach the official residence of the Prime Minister and demand that he receive a protest against his doings from a chosen committee. Deputies and Senators and Academicians on this side, as becomes well-bred persons of their condition; and it has been recommended that cries be limited to "Vive la Liberte" and "Long live the Sisters."

Here, too the police are ready. A cordon is stretched across the way to the Elysee and the Ministry of the Interior, just opposite the two art palaces. The Compte de Mun parleys with the police commissary, but the orders are positive. The fine ladies, who for once, have an occupation in life; the devout women who are thrilling with a sense of religious persecution, which will make life worth living for them many a long day; the mothers of little children wondering what they shall do during working hours now that the sisters cannot charge themselves with the care of their offspring, the pupils themselves, young girls not yet awake to the realities of the great city, can do nothing but work their way among the trees, so that their piping shouts of "Vive la Liberte" may be heard by the Englantines, who on this day represent the Republic.

Two elegantly dressed young women accompanied by their father and brother, have succeeded in breaking through the police and bravely enter the Palace de la Concorde. One has a blue parasol with which she brandishes wildly. Englantines run from all sides to pay dubious compliments, in words which properly bred young ladies can certainly not understand. There is a scramble, and the blue parasol is triumphantly captured.

But the police are at hand and push back the shouters of liberty among the trees of the Champs Elysees, not without letting pass some of the Englantines, who at once proceed to call out their inappropriate cries in this new field of combat.

The Christian mothers and the rest answer: "Earn your forty sous!"—it is the traditional pay for paid demonstrators. When the mounted police are moving, some one throws a chair under the legs of the horses. One horse rises and slides violently, ending by falling over the rider. The guard is carried off to the hospital for repairs and the crowd is rushed more vigorously. But dinner time is near, groups still stand disputing, and most of all, crying each other down till all are hoarse. The confusion lessens, the guards dismount under the trees and the policement sit in rows in the chairs. It has been a successful day—only one man stabbed in the Tuileries Garden, a few crushing blows with the Eglantines' sticks, and some deputies arrested with the rest.

"The Republican population swept the streets of Paris," says the Socialist Lanterne.—[New York Evening Post Correspondence.

MANY LOVELY WOMEN

Have Married Men Who Were Very Ugly.

"I don't see how such a lovely woman could have married such an ugly man," is an observation often heard. It is certain that many famous and wealthy beauties have loved and married men of even repulsive personal appearance.

John Wilkes, the famous London Alderman and champion of British electors, was so abnormally ugly that children ran affrighted from him in the streets, and yet his powers of fascination were so great that "ladies of beauty and fashion vied with each other for his notice, and men of handsome exterior and all courtly graces looked enviously on."

There were, it is said, few beauties of the day whose hand Wilkes might not have confidently hoped to win; and when he lead Mary Mead to the altar he made a wife of one of the richest and most lovely women of her time. "'Beauty and the Beast' they call us," Wilkes once said to his friend Potter, "and I cannot honestly find fault with the description."

Jean Paul Marat, whose name will always be associated with the evil history of the French Revolution, was notoriously the ugliest man of his day in Paris. When this reputation reached his ears, Marat is said to have remarked, "But why limit my supremacy to Paris?" and, indeed, the restriction was much too modest.

And yet in his early years, when he was the most popular of court doctors, his very ugliness seemed to exercise such a fascination over aristocratic ladies that they crowded his consulting rooms in order to catch a glimpse of him and exchange words with him under the flimsiest pretext of imaginary ailments.

Although there were few plainer men of his generation than the great Lord Brougham, and as few who took so little trouble to ingratiate themselves into the favor of women, the brilliant lawyer and statesman at one time might have "picked and chosen" among the fairest of society beauties.

No man who cared so little for female society had surely ever so much of it thrust upon him—to such an extent, indeed, that when any one asked where Lord Brougham was, usual answer was "Where the ladies are thickest," and by following this significant guide he was generally run to earth.

Among so many fair wooers it is little to be wondered at that Brougham succumbed at last—to the charms of Mrs. Spalding, a widow, "who added a charming wit to an incomparable person."

Bailly, Mayor of Paris at the time of the Reign of Terror, is said to have had a face almost exactly like that of a horse. His appearance was, in fact, so abnormal, so monstrous, that children shrieked and women fainted at the very sight of him, and yet his wife was one of the most lovely women in the whole of France—so lovely that as a girl she was known as the beautiful angel."

That there was a powerful fascination for some women in extreme ugliness is proved by innumerable cases in which women who have ben richly dowered with physical charms have fallen madly in love with men of almost repulsive appearance.

Random Comment.

Recent earthquakes in the West recall the fact that on the night of the seismic disturbances in 1886 in Georgia, the Macon city council was in session. The city hall was shaken from basement to attic, and the councilmen ran for their lives. Later the wag who kept the minutes of the meeting closed his report in this way: "On motion of the city hall the council adjourned."

OLD NEWGATE IS GOING DOWN

Famous Prison Disappearing From Site of London

IT HAD MANY HORRORS

Women Pilloried, Lashed and Branded With Hot Irons.

Newgate Prison is gradually being dismantled. Soon its massive stone walls will cease to frown on wayfarers in the Old Bailey, and the new and handsome Central Criminal Court will take its place. And so the old gaol is gradually disgorging from its dark recesses a gruesome collection of objects connected with the punishment of criminals for generations past. Plaster casts of the heads of ferocious criminals have gone to Scotland Yard, and the headsman's axe and block, and the cat and birch, have been removed to Pentonville or Holloway. Some of these things have gone to the Guildhall Museum, where they will shortly be exhibited. A Daily News reporter has been shown the collection by Mr. Charles Welsh, the City Librarian. It includes some of the seats from the old Newgate Chapel, where a condemned criminal on the morning before his execution had to sit in front of all the prisoners, his coffin lying at his feet, and have a special sermon preached at him by the prison chaplain.

There is also a bust of Sir John Sylvester, Recorder of London from 1803 to 1822, and known to fame as "Black Jack of the Old Bailey." The sardonic smile of this notorious "hanging judge" is reproduced with unpleasant vividness. The spectator feels as if he is just about to be consigned to the gallows.

One of the most unpleasant objects in the collection is the old "whipping block." This, when closed, has the appearance of a large chest of black painted wood, in the top of which are two holes, in which the legs of the victim were sunk up to his thighs. At the back is an upright post with a cross-bar containing wrist-holes. When the prisoner was standing with his legs in the holes, his ankles in much smaller holes inside the chest, and his wrists held tightly in the cross-bar, his back was bent so that the lashes would fall with fearful effect on the projecting vertebrae. The cross-bar contains a pair of smaller holes, nearer together, for women and children. Women were not only whipped, but branded with red-hot irons on the palm of their hand. The thick jetlike polish on the inside of the holes shows with what fearful strength the victims must have writhed and tugged while under the lash.

Then there were heavy-jointed and padlocked iron belts, with handcuffs by which the hands of prisoners were chained to their waists, so that they could not even raise them to the face. The leg-irons are of chains like that of a ship's anchor, the links formed of iron an inch in diameter; a set weighing nearly a hundredweight. These had to be fastened on the ankles by a smith with a red hot bolt.

Most interesting and less repulsive are the manuscript volumes of records of Old Newgate. The Lord Mayor's minute book shows the disposition of constables on public and state occasions, and there are notes for future use where the arrangements are seen to need improvement. Thus we find notes that the Lord Mayor's coach should turn at the top of "Labour-in-Vain-Hill," and that on a wet day certain officers should take shelter.

But among humdrum official details are some exciting records. A series of gambling raids in March, 1794, is fully described, and gamblers appear then, as now, to have sat up very late indeed.

On March 17 the constables met in Smithfield at 6 o'clock in the morning, and went with a "lottery warrant" in two parties to the back and front of No. 126 Bishopsgate Street Within, breaking open the doors, and finding seventy persons—men, women, and children—in a room. The clerks in charge, with their books, escaped through a trap-door.

On the 20th a raid was made on Bulcock's, No. 67 in the same street, and a woman known as Mrs. Bulcock acted as a decoy in procuring admission for the officers. Mrs. Bulcock was secured, and her clerk captured as he got out of a garret window. Mr. Bulcock got six months and his clerk three, but the wife was discharged. That same night McQueen's, No. 128, Minories, was attacked, two female decoys, Mrs. Brown and Miss Roland rendering service in gaining entrance. The records seem to show that the lottery was quite as popular among the women as among the men.

Mrs. McQueen was an artful person. No papers could be found, and at last the constables and marshals determined to search the lady herself. She was seen to pass something to her mother, an old woman of ninety, who was searched, and several books found.

After this trying scene, Mrs. McQueen asked leave to give her mother a drop of cordial. She took a bottle from the cupboard, uncorked it, and then suddenly took some papers from her dress, threw them on the fire and poured the spirit over them that they might be quickly consumed. The constables were too quick and Mrs. McQueen went to Bridewell for six months.

A raid on Hughe's eating house in Stationer's Alley brought nothing to light whereupon the constables—let us hope quite unlike their modern successors—charged Hughes with being a "rogue and vagabond." The magistrates were satisfied as to his character, and discharged him. That evening the lady assistants procured the marshals and constables' admission to Hailey's, No. 153 Minories, and there was a terrific fight, in which fire-shovels and three-legged stools were freely used against the officers of the law. A Jewish rabbi was discovered among the gamblers. The principles were tied and double-ironed, and carted off to the Mansion house in triumph. Other exciting raids are recorded, in one of which every room in a house was broken open, and the incriminating books finally found in an underground cellar reached by a trap door.

Public meetings were regarded with great suspicion, and again and again the constables were called out because people were assembling somewhere.

On November 21, 1795, the Lord Mayor called the constables together because the Spitalfields weavers were meeting on Bethnal Green. As a measure of prudence, a single constable was sent to make observations, and his report on returning makes amusing reading.

He informed the Lord Mayor that 3,000 people had assembled and that there were four speakers.

Number One had spoken about bills pending in Parliament.

Number Two had dealt with the dearness of provisions and the want of trade which he said arose from the war.

Number Three denounced Mr. Pitt and his numerous pensioners and placemen, all of whom wanted to crush every poor man, and especially any one who dared to speak of grievances.

Number Four advised the people to go home quietly, because on that very spot two of their comrades had lost their lives in the cause of liberty.

And this, said the policeman, the crowd dispersed without disorder. That constable was quite a model reporter!

An interesting set of volumes included in the collection are the reports of the visiting justices of Newgate, beginning in 1814.

There is generaly a humane spirit about these justices. They are always looking after mops, cleansing, whitewash, and clothing. In May, 1815, one of them reports that a board had been placed to keep the men debtors from seeking the women. It kept out the air, and did not prevent the view, so he ordered it to be taken down. There are frequent entries such as this:

"On felons' side found the criminal boys catechizing."

Found several criminal children learning to read."

But the most interesting records came in 1840, when we find how two Chartists, Shaw and Bezer, kept the whole of Newgate busy attending to them. Such prisoners had never been heard of before. For months the visiting justices almost filled their pages with Shaw and Bezer.

First these two revolutionary persons applied for pens, ink and paper. Of course they were told that it was contrary to regulations.

Then Bezer wanted to see his solicitor, but this was also refused. Next, Shaw applied to be allowed to write to Mr. Baron Platt, and this was considered unwise to refuse.

A few days later it was found that Bezer, in spite of the refusal of the pens, ink and paper, had actually written a book. The volume was ordered to be impounded. Then Shaw and Bezer began a series of worrying petitions to the Court of Aldermen. Bezer tried to get his journal back, then to get it handed to his wife, then to get an undertaking that he should have it when set at liberty. Shaw then started on a new tack, and agitated for permission to petition the House of Commons. Bezer began propaganda work in the prison and was so insistent that a prisoner named Simpson petetioned to be kept in a separate part. Then Shaw became ill, and one of the more humane magistrates allowed him to see his wife about his life policy. Another magistrate afterwards wrote that Shaw said "he was unwell, but could not mention a single symptom of the disease." Then Bezer diveloped conscientious scruples about attending chapel, and at last things got so bad that the prisoners practically got their own way, and we read of a committee at which "Shaw and Bezer applied for various indulgencies." The justices had got tired of refusing and did not even enter the subject matter of the applications in their minutes. We even begin to read about "Mr." Shaw!

It is by such work as that of Shaw and Bezer that our liberties have been built up. These records of Newgate are a monument to the power of persistent peaceful agitation. All honor to Shaw and Bezer! [London Daily Mail.

CURRENT COMMENT.

Most of the benefits usually ascribed to sea bathing are due to the breathing of salt air.

The largest coral reef in the world is the Australian barier reef, which is 1,100 miles in length.

The house stands near Susquehanna, Pa., in which Joseph Smith translated the "Book of Mormon" from copper plates in 1827.

Paris, according to the latest census returns, has a population of 2,650,000 persons, of whom 1,500,000 are either foreigners or provincials.

The extraordinary development of the German mania for picture postcards is attested by the total number of cards which passed through the post in 1900, no fewer than 736,000,000.

Dr. Edward Everett Hale, who is spending the summer at Matunuck, R. I., says that one charm of his residence there is that it is "five miles from a door bell."

The city of Bordeaux is about to honor the memory of its most famous daughter, Rosa Bonheur. A committee, the chairman of which is Bouguereau, the famous painter, has been formed to lay plans for a fitting monument.

Congressman Babcock of Wisconsin has has bought the Washington house in which the late John J. Ingalls used to live while senator, paying $15,000 for the property. Mr. Babcock began life as a lumber jack and is now rated as a millionaire.

The decline of trees on the Boston Common is now attributed to the clearing of vegetation from their bases. This practice leads to rapid evaporation of needed moisture and lessens the fertility of the soil.

While Lord Salisbury was in office as prime minister 2,500,000 square miles of territory and a population of 40,000,000 were added to the British Empire. In other words, English domain has been increased about one-quarter.

"Dear Mary," wrote a brother in Norton, Kansas, to his sister in Goodland, "we are all very well, only mother has hysterics, Tim has Toothache, and Jane has a baby. I hope you are the same."

King Edward of England once learned the printer's trade. Alfred Boerskel, a librarian at Mayence, has compiled a list of thirty members of European royal families who learned to print.

Buffalo is getting ready to hold memorial service in the largest public hall of the city on the first anniversar" of William McKinley's death—September 14. Bishop Fowler, (Methodist) will probably be the preacher, and a great chorus of school children will sing the beloved President's favorite hymn.

HOW PLANTS ARE CHANGED

Greai Progress in the Breeding of Grains and Flower.

EARLY PREJUDICE ABOUT IT

Beleive That It Was Impious Interference With Native.

A subject of large and rapidly growing importance, of which little is known by people in general, will be prominently brought before the public next autumn by the holding in New York of an International Conference on Plant Breeding and Hybridization. Announcement of the meeting is made by the Council of the Horticultural Society of New York, whose Chairman is Dr. N. L. Britton, Director-in-Chief of the New York Botanical Garden. Acting under the instruction of the society at its annual meeting in May, 1901, the Chairman sent letters concerning the conference to leading scientific societies and individuals interested in progressive horticulture, both at home and abroad, to all the agricultural experiment stations in America, the United States Department of Agriculture and the Minister of Agriculture of the Dominion of Canada, in order to enlist a widespread support and to ascertain views as to the most convenient date for the attendance of the majority of those interested. The responses were unanimously in favor of holding such a conference, and the dates of September 30 and October 1 and 2, 1902, were finally selected by the Conference committee, consisting of Dr. N. L. Britton, Chairman; Dr. F. M. Hexamer, J. de Wolf, H. A. Seabricht, and Leonard Barron, Secretary, who is also secretary of the Horticultural Society of New York.

An international plant breeding conference was held in London in 1899, but the American delegates there were disappointed by it, and they felt that a great opportunity had been lost, through failure to bring forward more prominently the matter of economic values and the possibilities of increasing national wealth by the lines of work considered. By the forthcoming conference it is designed to ascertain and group the results of the efforts of different countries and states, thereby fixing a starting point by which future work may be measured, and making a valuable contribution to practical science.

As pointed out by an expert on the subject, all of our most familiar flowers, fruits, vegetables, and cereals are the results of unconscious plant breeding, sometimes dating so far back that the original types are unknown, as in the instances of wheat and India corn. All systematic work in this line, however, has been done within the last fifty years, while the last five years have been more productive of valuable results than the whole foregoing period. In a paper by Mr. Barron he emphasizes the fact that the history of gardening as an advanced art did not begin till about 150 years ago, when Innaeus was building up his remarkable system of plant classification. From that time until recent years the world was ransacked for new plants, until native floras were practically exhausted. The new plant of today is generally recognized as an artificial production, the result of hybridization. A clear understanding of sexuality in plants was first recorded in 1676, and in 1691 Camerarius published results of investigations he had made of the sterility of a mulberry tree. The first actual, intentional hybrid produced between two distinct species was "Fairchild's sweet-william," the achievement of Thomas Fairchild, a London nurseryman, who died in 1729. The progress of hybridization was slow for many years afterwards, the effect of the process often being very slight in the first generation, so that first results were frequently disappointing, and early experimenters, who trusted to chance, were apt to become discouraged. After more scientific and persistent lines of investigation were adopted, the pioneers were opposed by popular prejudice, objection being raised to their work on the ground that it was an impious interference with the laws of noture. So strong was the prejudice of England that in modern times a noted firm of of nurserymen near ondon concealed the fact that they were manufacturing their novelties, and placed on the market a very large number of artificial hybrids, produced in their nurseries, as original species from the Cape of God Hope.

Wonderful results have been accomplished in plant-breeding by the process of selection alone. The sugar in sugar-beets has been increased more than 100 per cent in the last century by means of rigid selection, systematically and scientifically carried out upon a large scale by French and German seed-growers. In every generation of beets the best roots, with the highest percentage of pure sugar have been selected as the parents of a new generation. Most valuable results have been obtained in this country by the work of the state and the United States agricultural experiment stations. In a report by Wiliet M. Hays of the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, which was published in 1901, he says:

The ten leading field crops in the United States annually yield nearly $2,000,000,000 worth of plant products. By means of live stock and manufacturing processes the value of these is so increased that it is very nearly doubled. Experiments have demonstrated that by breeding alone these crops may be improved in their inherited tendencies as to yield 5 per cent, more, even with the cultivation remaining unimproved." He adds that the Minnesota station by six years of selection produced varieties only twenty-six inches tall, increasing the length of the fibre more than 2 0per cent. This experiment demonstrates the possibilities of breeding flax which will grow as long fibre in a dry climate as is produced from the common flax in Belgium, Ireland, and other moist countries where most of the long fibre is now produced. By the process of selection in wheat breeding at the same station, two new varieties have been produced and distributed, which will, it is estimated, repay the state in a few years for all the money it has expended to date in agricultural experiments.

In a paper read by George Fee, gardener, before a meeting of a gardeners' association at Exeter, England, last spring, he said that nothing in scientific agriculture had attracted more attention in the world in the last ten years than the raising of new breeds of wheat in America and other wheat-growing countries. It had been demonstrated that these new wheats would increase the present yield in the regions to which these particular wheats were adapted by four bushels per acre. If that could be accomplished in the United States alone, it would add over 180,000,000 bushels per year, worth at low valuation about $140,000,000.

Mr. Hopkins of Illinois has shown that quality of the Indian corn can be greatly improved by breeding it for a larger percentage of protein and oil, its most valuable constituents. Hugo de Vries of Holland ha scarried common red clover through a process of breeding which has resulted in increasing the leaflets from three up to five, and even up to eight in some instances. Garton Brothers of England have hybridized various species of forage grasses, and made species new to science, and their work with oats, and other crops is equally remarkable.

Wonderful results of hybridization have been produced by Luther Burbank, the horticultural scientist of Santa Rosa, Cal., whose name is mentioned wherever plant-breeding is written or spoken of, and who is known as the "Wizard of Horticulture." Born in Lancaster, Mass., in 1849, he was trained as a machinist, and while still a boy developed a valuable improvement in the machinery of the factory in which he was employed. His bent towards horticulture was so strong, however, that he soon abandoned mechanics for the plant and seed business. In this line his first notable success was quickly achieved by the production of the Burbank potato, which was developed, by selection, from one of twenty three seeds found in a patch of Early Rose potatoes which he had planted. Though doing well where he was, he became convinced that California would afford him much better opportunities for horticultural investigation, and he removed in 1875 to Santa Rosa, where he has since devoted himself to his remarkably successful experiments in plant-breding. On fifteen acres of land he breeds fruits and flowers by thousands continually producing new varieties. By crossing and recrossing innumerable seedlings, so as to have large numbers to select from, he has introduced a great many new plums, most of which are superior to any of the parent varieties. One of these is the well-known plum which is called by his own name. He is now breeding a stoneless prune, having already succeeded in eliminating the pit, so that only the kernel of the stone remains. His giant prune is nearly three times as large as the parent, and he has introduced several kinds of blackberry-raspberry hybrids, the berries of which are more than twice the size of either of the parent fruits.

By crossing the apricot with the plum, Mr. Burbank has produced a new fruit called the plum-cot. The appearance of the fruit and foliage of the former are said to combine in a remarkable degree the characteristics of both its parents. By hybridizing the black walnut and the English walnut, Mr. Burbank has created a new species, with nuts very much larger and more valuable than those of either parent, and a more rapid-growing tree. Another remarkable achievement of his was the production of a white blackberry.

All sorts of surprising things occur in plant-breeding, as it is impossible to foresee the exact results of intermarriages, however scientifically and systematically planned. Prof. Byron D. Halstead of Rutgers College, as the result of experiments in testing the susceptibility of certain grains to different diseases, incidentally produced ears of corn bearing an even mixture of white, black and rose-colored grains, these being the hybrid offspring of a white and a black breed of sugar-corn.

The economic value of plant-breeding illustrated in many different ways. In agriculture one of the notable advantages of hybridization is the fact that tender plants may be made more resistant to cold by crossing them with hardy species. Highly bred cultivated plants are especially liable to disease, but by selection or hybridization this tendency can often be overcome. For instance, the cow-pea, which is valuable for ploughing under as a green crop, to increase the nitrogen in the soil, suddenly developed a disease which threatened it with practical extinction. Herbert J. Webber, who is in charge of the plant-breeding of the United States Department of Agriculture, investigated the matter and found a certain group of cow-peas which were not affected by the disease. With this as a basis, he developed, by the process of selection, a variety which is perfectly healthy.

Up to a few years ago, it is said, no one had ever seen the ripe seeds of the sugar-cane—perhaps because no one had looked for them—and propagation was made from cuttings alone, so that there was a comparatively limited range of variations. Now, seedlings are to be raised, and some of these prove to be so much richer in sugar than others that their cultivation may make all the difference between profit and loss.

DE WET AND THE SCOTCH

When He Never Attacked the British Convoys.

De Wet is possessed of humor, says a South African correspondent, writing to a contemporary. One of the leading camp officials on a certain refugee camp is a Scotsman, who during the dinner, took occasion in offering the General a drink to say the general secured no samples of whisky among his captured convoys. De Wet was much amused at this and on referring to it subsequently said that before attacking a convoy he made inquiries if they were guarded by Scotsmen. If this were so, he further inquired if it contained any whisky. In the second condition accompanied the first, he always gave the convoy a wide berth, because he knew the beggars would fight to the last man! The Scotsman replied that he would write home and inform his countrymen of this important element in the scouting and in defensive warfare—a remark which set him into roars of laughter.—[St. Jame's Gazette.

A new town in Oklahoma is called Kaw City. There are a good many cornfields in the vicinity and as they are flourishing the Kaw City Star says, "Born and borne on the tidal wave of such a corn-rotial overflow, Kaw City cannot fail to wax mightily toward metropolitan proportions and importance."

YOUNG WOMEN IN RUSSIA

They are Causing the Police Sleepless Nights.

RUN PRINTING PRESSES

And Circulate Revolutionary Literature Over the Country.

The Russian police have recently been exercised at the spread of the revolutionary movement among women and girls. During the latter years of the reign of Alexander II. young women played a powerful part in the Nihilist movement which clouded that period of Russian history, Count Tolstoi, who was then Minister of the Interior, put them down with a ruthless hand.

But again they are to the forefront of the revolutionary movement, and stronger and more influential than ever. The murdered Minister Sipyagin was occupied with their suppression, but this was a weak hand, and the measures he took to curb their political activity only made matters worse. During the week before his death over forty young women were arrested in various parts of Russia for complicity in the secret printing of seditious tracts and pamphlets. This is a branch of revolutionary enterprise to which the Russian female revolutionist gladly devotes herself. Presses worked by women and girls have been discovered in Charkoff, Samara, Odessa, Kieff, Moscow and Riga. How many more are at work which have not been discovered is unknown.

The leaders of the female revolutionists are all educated persons, having mostly spent a considerable time abroad studying in the universities of Berlin, Zurich and Geneva. Some of them also study in Belgium, chiefly at large.

According to a well-known spy of the late Sipyagin, there are over 300 young women wandering about Russia at the present time engaged in propagating revolutionary and socialist notions and circulating the tracts printed on the street presses. They assume all manner of disguises. Some of them, clad in black, with a black shawl over their heads and a cross around their necks, go about from village to village ostensibly engaged in collecting money to build churches, and, what is more remarkable, supplied with the necessary license from the ecclesiastical authorities.

Others are in the guise of beggars, clad in rags. These carry a bag in which they stow away bread and scraps given them by the charitable. In the bottom of the bag the curious might find a little bundle of revolutionary literature. But for the most part these female emissaries are found at work among the workmen in manufacturing districts, where they employ themselves as seamstresses or as nurses or teachers.

Their devotion to the cause knows no bounds. One of them, a girl of twenty-two, was lately arrested in the manufacturing town of Lodz, in Russian Poland, and taken before a police master charged with the dissemination of seditious literature. She was kept on black bread and water for ten days and compelled to starve that authorities might get a confession from her as to who her confederates were. She stubbornly refused to speak a word. Weakened by the inadequate food, she fell a victim to the prison fever and in her delirium mentioned certain names of friends. They were arrested and, on her recovery, confronted with her.

Unable to understand how the police obtained their names and feeling herself an unwilling traitress she committed suicide in her cell by eating the phosphorus ends of two boxes of matches.

In Charkoff a young woman of twenty-five threw herself out of the window, four stories high, rather than fall into the hands of the police, who had suddenly burst open her room, where she was engaged in type-setting.

It is the opinion of the Russian police that the most dangerous revolutionists with whom they have to deal are women.

ODD ITEMS FROM EVERYWHERE.

Since the disasters in Martinique and St. Vincent somebody has taken the trouble to count up the world's volcanoes. The total, according to the Paris Siecle, is about 1,000, of which 225 are still classed as active. "Extinct" volcanoes, however, are suspects. Ever the destruction of Pompeii Vesuvius lay quiescent for three centuries.

James Cahill is the only person in Virginia, and probably in the United States, who has to regular use upon his farm an elephant, which is used for farm work. With the swaying beast hitched up to a plow he can turn more ground than any of his neighbors with a team of horses, and when it comes to hauling logs, the elephant will walk away with ease with logs which the best teams of his neighbors can not move. The elephant eats little more than a horse and does many times the work of one, is gentle and docile and little trouble, and Mr. Cahill is more than pleased with his experiment. Mr. Cahill bought the elephant from a stranded circus proprietor.

An architect in New York says that with the modern steel frame a building can be carried to a height equal to seven and a half times the diameter of its base. By this rule on an ordinary city block could be erected a building 150 feet high, 500 feet higher than the Eiffel tower. It would have 125 stories and cost about $75,000,000.

This item is from a Cuban newspaper, published in English: "Lately the police headquarters ordered to forbid the servants do to run the horses fastly on the big streets as they sometimes pressed the children down and hurted them on the ground and the police stopped a wagon running a horse hardly on its back, but a number of soldiers came along quickly and captured the police away."

Professor Eliot of Harvard is an enthusiastic rose grower. He is very fond of the flower, of which he has an exact scientific knowledge, and three bushes at his Cambridge home are his especial personal care.